

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /139 R

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STR:SLANDE/SCOFFIELD
TREAS:WWORTHEN
COMMERCE:BASCHER
LABOR:GPRATT
CUSTOMS:DRAMSEY
EA/ROC:WLUNDY
EA/PRC:SSTANFIELD
EA/J:HCOCHRAN

-----011381 290225Z /15

P R 282333Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USOECN, USEEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: NONRUBBER FOOTWEAR: HONG KONG CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) STATE 177418, B) GENEVA 10345, C) HONG KONG 8246,

D) HONG KONG 7441

1. THE CONTINUING SURGE OF FOOTWEAR IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG AND THE UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSES THAT WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH HKG OFFICIALS REQUIRE THAT FORMAL CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HKG FOREIGN TRADE DIRECTOR LAURIE MILLS INDICATED DURING CONVERSATION JULY 5 IN GENEVA WITH ASST. STR LANDE THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN AUGUST. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG ON AUGUST 14 AND 15. (LANDE IS PLANNING TO BE IN TAIPEI AUGUST 16-17, SEE SEPTTEL.) ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE A CLOSED MIND ON OTHER WAYS OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS AND ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANY HONG KONG PROPOSALS, WE STILL BELIEVE THAT THE MOST DESIRABLE SOLUTION IS SOME TYPE OF QUANTITATIVE CONTROL SUCH AS THOSE EMBODIED IN AN OMA.

2. HKG ASKED IN REFTTEL D UNDER WHICH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO SPECIFY ANY FORMAL LEGAL CONTEXT AT

THIS STAGE BUT RATHER TO RELY ON HKG'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND INTEREST. YOU MAY REASSURE HKG, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD THE USG DETERMINE TO INSTITUTE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON COUNTRIES NOT PARTIES TO THE OMAS WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL NOTIFY THE GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIX.

3. FOR AMEMBASSY TOKYO -- PLEASE INFORM GOJ THAT U.S. FOOTWEAR DELEGATION WILL BE GOING TO HONG KONG TO CONSULT REGARDING THE SURGE OF NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG. AS U.S. IMPORTS OF NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR FROM JAPAN ARE ALMOST TWICE THE LEVEL IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 AS THEY WERE IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977 (4.5 MILLION PAIRS AGAINST 2.3 MILLION PAIRS), WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OCCASION OF THE DELEGATION'S PRESENCE IN THE REGION TO HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOJ. PLEASE CONTACT APPROPRIATE GOJ OFFICIAL TO DETERMINE IF SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOJ. WE SHALL PROPOSE DATES AFTER TRAVEL PLANS ARE CLEARER. VANCE

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